

Environmental Justice Network in Action (EJNA) 2006 Annual Report

I. Summary of 2006 EJNA Activities

- Development of a vision and mission statement, core values, goals, and a 1.5 year plan
- Implementation of a Train-the-Trainer outreach and education model with Community-based Organizations (CBOs) and ECOSS, a contracted consultant agency
- Preparation for a more research-oriented and a flexible CBO workload/capacity project year for 2007
- Development of SPU translation policy and Consultant Roster RFP

II. A Little History

Environmental Justice Pass It On – 1998 (EPA)

- Two year grant to provide Indoor Air, Hazardous Household Waste (HHW), Environmental Justice (EJ), Energy and Water Conservation training to residents in SE Seattle and encourage them to share information with people in their community/family
- Organizational participants included Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), American Lung Association (ALAW), Seattle Tenants Union, and Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)
- Community participants included SE Seattle residents, women attending ESL class at Refugee Women's Alliance (REWA), and SPU ECOTEAM and YMCA Eco-leaders Summer Youth Programs

Environmental Justice Needs Assessment - 2001

- A partner model consisting of SPU staff acting as administrative lead, CBOs with links to specific Immigrant/Refugee (IR) groups, and non profit and government agencies with interest in providing services and information to IR communities
- The combination of SPU staff, other agency staff, and community organizations forms the partnership team which directs the planning and implementation of the project
- Our overall project goal, as funded by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP), is to involve IR groups countywide in determining what their environmental service and environmental health needs are and to deliver on some of those needs
- Consulted with CBOs and other agencies on approach and potential partnerships - adopted neighborhood approach vs community approach based on consultation with Stella Chao, executive director at International District Housing Alliance (IDHA)
- A community-based needs assessment in which SPU partners with other government and community agencies, as well as key stakeholders in the community to design, test and conduct a needs assessment and evaluate the project implementation

EJNA Neighborhood Choice Criteria for Needs Assessment

- Neighborhood in Seattle/King County – reaches IR target communities like Asian Pacific Islander (API), Hispanic, and East African
- Mix across cultures
- Available community networks
- Expressed interest by community leaders and community members in the project
- Existing agency(ies)/group(s) that have cross-cultural community connections with community organizations
- Health disparity indicators
- Do-ability

Environmental Justice Network in Action - 2004

- In 2004 team decided to change name from Environmental Justice Needs Assessment to Environmental Justice Network In Action to reflect the network that we were trying to build and the action we wanted to see in communities having greater access to programs and services



The monthly EJNA community meeting takes place once a month in the summer season. At these meetings, CBOs practice presentation skills and agency partners conduct in-depth presentations on a variety of topics. Here, IDHA shared information on a survey tool that gathers info on community assets in the International District neighborhood.

III. Re-working of EJNA Identification - 2006

At an all-day retreat, the SPU EJNA team developed a mission and vision statement, core values, and baseline goals and action steps to guide the group's work.

Mission

To enhance and protect environmental health and reduce environmental threat for historically underserved populations by being a catalyst for change and building community and local government capacity.

Clarification of Environmental Health

- Concerns that harm a person physically and/or mentally
- EX1 – Exposure to toxic household cleaning products causes asthma in a person
- EX2 – Living in a high crime area causes mental stress in a person

Clarification of Environmental Threat

- Concerns that harm a person's social well-being
- EX1 – Asthma has limited a person's working capacity, thus limits labor choices and income level
- EX2 – A high crime area affects the community's safety and a person's quality of life

Vision

All Seattle and King County residents have access to resources to meet their needs and live in a clean, healthy, and safe environment.

Goals

1. To partner with external and internal stakeholders

Actions: a. Expand program to new communities/neighborhoods
b. Research and develop a holistic school program w/ SPU & LHWMP

2. To jointly identify the top environmental health needs and concerns of historically underserved communities (HUCs)

Actions: a. Identify underserved communities/neighborhoods
b. Implement an EJNA program in a one new neighborhood

3. To build reciprocal relationships with external and internal stakeholders for ongoing provision of information and service to HUCs

Actions: a. Hire EJNA participants as vendors to implement pieces of EJNA workplan

4. To identify service delivery strategies that work in HUCs

Actions: a. Identify and implement resourceful, efficient, and effective service delivery strategies
b. Evaluate and continuously improve service delivery strategies to ensure external stakeholder's needs & concerns are addressed w/ high satisfaction

5. To increase the capacity of external and internal stakeholders to serve HUCs

Actions: a. Identify and research the phases of community capacity building to help us guide CBOs to becoming sustainable
b. Identify other funding to make current CBOs sustainable
c. Working w/ NRG to educate communities about emergency preparedness

6. To seek and provide information and resources about furthering environmental justice and service equity

Actions: a. Create a translation policy for SPU
b. Compile information / knowledge about working with HUCs

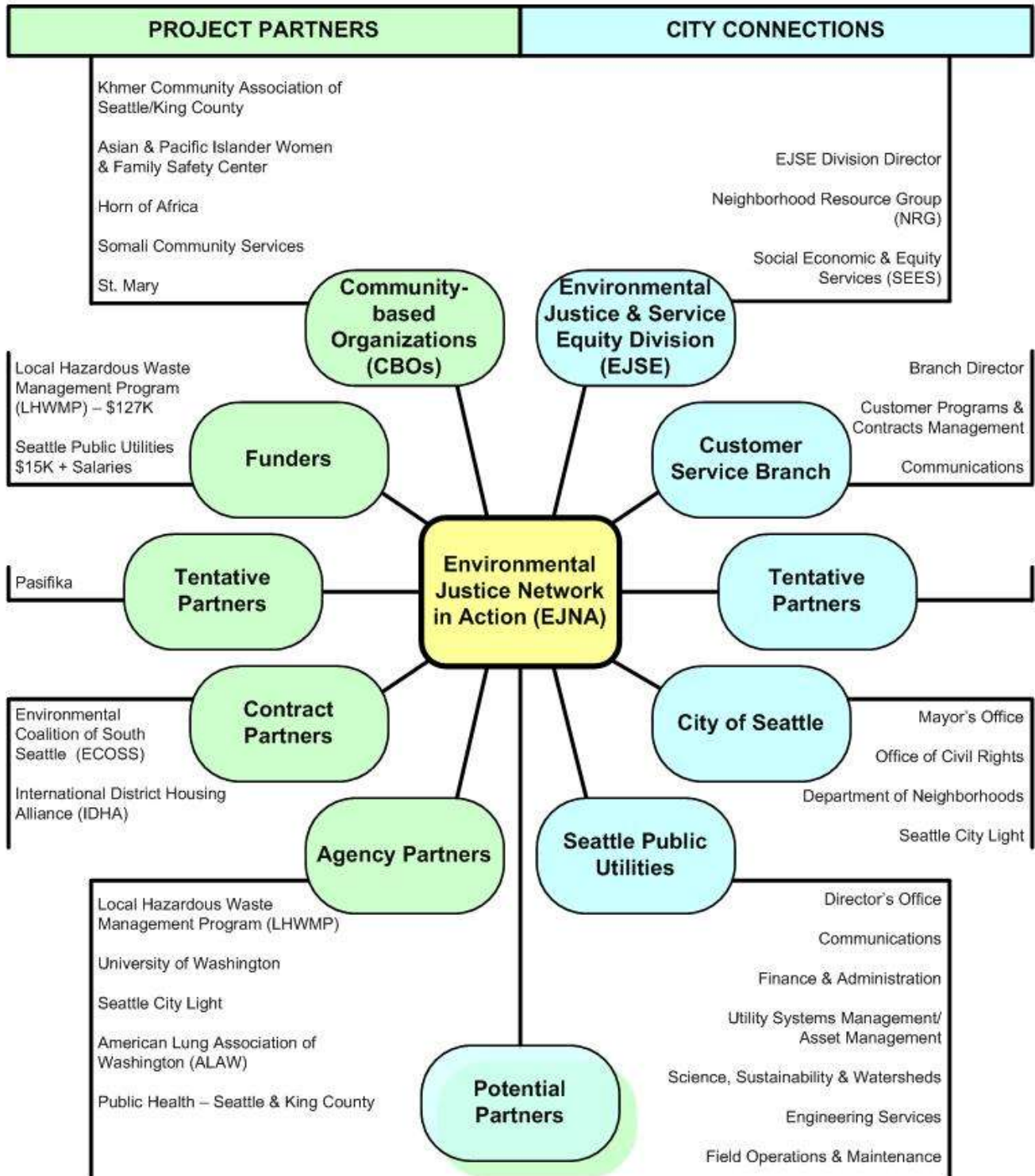
IV. Partners (refer to following page)

EJNA Partner Roles

- SPU - Administrative lead, project coordination, and management
- ECOSS - Contracted to do presentations/training and outreach for IR communities, in addition to providing support and expertise to CBOs and LHWMP staff
- CBOs - provide consultation, coordinate, and implement work plan activities
- Agency/Orgs - provide training/access to resources and provide input on project direction

Environmental Justice Network in Action (EJNA)

2006 Connections



V. EJNA-CBO Project Year 2006

Five CBOs participated in project year 2006 – each receiving an \$11,000 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to do outreach and education and awareness assessments with their communities on environmental and human health issues. The following is a summary of their activities:

Participating CBOs

1. Khmer Community Association of Seattle & King County
2. Asian & Pacific Islander Women & Family Safety Center
3. Horn of Africa Services
4. Somali Community Services Of Seattle
5. St. Mary's Church

Activities

- 10 Group Dialogues (awareness assessments)
- 11 Festivals
- 11 Presentations
 - i. HHW
 - ii. Recycling
 - iii. Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA)
 - iv. Food & seafood safety
 - v. Domestic violence



A collaborative effort of several EJNA partners, Carl Woestwin from SPU Resource Conservation division presents on organic food choices and Morgan Barry from King County Public Health presents on seafood safety to the Filipino community.



All five CBOs participated in an educational group boat tour of the Duwamish River led by BJ Cummings of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition. Participants learned about the history of environmental damage and the current ecological challenges this area faces.

- 11 Field Trips
 - i. Duwamish River boat tours
 - ii. Water Quality Lab
 - iii. South Transfer Waste station and Reuse store
 - iv. University of Washington's Toxicology and Environmental Health labs

Language

- 49% of activities were presented in English & Native Language
- 33% of activities were presented in English only
- 7% of activities were presented in Native Language only

Audience

- Reached approximately 176 people through presentations, field trips, and group dialogues
- Reached an estimated 1025 people through festivals
- Potentially reached an additional 871 people through family member connections (calculated through household size listed on reporting forms)
- 25% of outreach focused on youth, 15% of outreach focused on seniors
- Recorded audience members came from 31 different zip codes - 12% were from King County locations outside of Seattle city limits and of those inside Seattle city limits, about half came from SE Seattle

Group Dialogue

The group dialogues intent was to explore EJNA's effectiveness in informing immigrant and refugee communities about recycling, household hazardous waste and the LIRA program. The following is a summary of the responses from 71 participants surveyed:

HHW

- 52% have heard the term Household Hazardous Waste
- 16% know where HHW stations are located
- 11% have taken stuff to the HHW stations
- Most people put HHW in the garbage

RECYCLING

- 72% know about the recycling ban
- 72% have seen the recycling YES/No flyer
- 94% have a recycling cart or dumpster
- 83% use a recycling cart or dumpster
- If they don't know if something is recyclable, most people put it in the garbage

LIRA

- 45% have heard of LIRA
- 44% read their water & electric bills
- 45% know where to get help with water & electric bills

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Graffiti
- Drinking - throwing bottles in the streets
- Clean streets (need more garbage cans)
- Public places without recycling bins
- Garbage contamination in work place recycling bins
- Disturbance in neighborhood
- Assault



Participants organized by Yolanda Quiroga of St. Mary's Church respond to group dialogue questions on HHW, recycling, and LIRA.

- Drug deals
- Prostitutes
- Gangs
- Reckless driving & speeding
- Slow response
- Police / security
- Racism
- Fear
- Hitchhikers
- Dogs
- Halfway house
- Construction
- Electrical, computer, printer, TV
- Discrimination in City offices
- Immigration
- George Bush
- Al Qaeda

VI. Other EJNA Special Events and Accomplishments

In addition to the EJNA-CBO-agency partnership project, the SPU EJNA team assisted and coordinated other environmental justice projects.

Community Discussion on Environmental Justice Issues

IDHA gathered 60 resident Asian elders to participate in a discussion on environmental justice issues affecting their neighborhood. WILD, IDHA's youth leadership development program, facilitated the discussion in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English. The elders were able to voice their concerns, education needs, and creative solutions on issues of air, water, and land quality.

Eco Village at the International District Street Fair

SPU EJNA and IDHA's WILD youth program collaborated to produce the Eco Village, an interactive display to educate people about what they can do to have a healthy home, yard and community. The WILD youth received training on a variety of topics in preparation for the festival and with this training, led participants through the Eco Village in hands-on activities on water and energy conservation, recycling, indoor air pollution, household hazardous waste, water shed protection and forest management. They also raffled off an energy and water-saving washing machine, donated by Albert Lee Appliance.



Eco Village at the International District Street Fair.



International District community members participant in a tour of the Water Quality Lab, one of the educational topics presented at the B.E. Healthy Conference.

B.E. Healthy Conference in the International District

IDHA held a B.E. (Be Environmentally) Healthy Conference in which 75 residents from the International District community participated in learning a variety of environmental and human health topics. SPU EJNA assisted with the conference by providing training on recycling and water quality, coordinating tours of the South Transfer Waste Station and the Water Quality Lab, and distributing Green Cleaning Kits to conference participants.

White Center Multilingual Homeownership Fair

SPU EJNA staffed a booth and provided information on household hazardous waste, water conservation, and recycling at the multilingual homeownership fair held at Mt. View Elementary school in White Center. Somali, Amharic, Vietnamese, Khmer, Cantonese and Korean interpreters were available to help with interpretation.

South Park Youth Participate in Tour of West Point Treatment Plant

SPU EJNA coordinated a tour of the West Point Sewage Treatment Facility for 12 Latino youth from South Park's Urban Environmental Justice Youth Corps. The youth learned about preventing sewage entering and polluting local water ways. In addition to this educational tour, the youth have been very active in other environmental issues including conducting community surveys on air and water quality, touring the Solid Waste Transfer Station and Duwamish River, and testing Duwamish River soil samples with the UW chemistry lab.

Environmental Justice Presentation at American Public Health Association Conference

Michael Davis (SPU EJNA) and Joyce Pisanont (IDHA) presented "Partnerships through Environmental Justice and Environmental Health" at the American Public Health Association conference in Boston. The presentation highlighted activities and lessons learned from the EJNA project, focusing on how to create community partnerships and how to provide culturally accessible programs and service delivery to meet the communication and education needs of immigrant and refugee communities.

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) CARE Program National Workshop

Michael Davis (SPU EJNA) participated in a stakeholder roundtable on community partnerships at a national workshop for recipients of the EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) grant. CARE is a new EPA initiative designed to establish a series of multimedia, community-based and community-driven projects to reduce local exposure to toxic pollution. SPU EJNA assisted IDHA in successfully applying for a CARE grant last year.

Green Home Kit

- Distributed 1370 green home kits. The kit consisted of an all-purpose cleaner, sponge/pad, bon ami, spray bottle, green bucket, and two informational cards. This year the kit tried a variety of different soaps and all-purpose spray cleaners and attempted to conduct a pre and post survey to gauge people's preferences for cleaners.

Project distributors included WLRDs school and youth program, PEPS, Healthy Homes Project, the five CBOs, ECOSS, and KCHA

- Distributed 5885 green recipe cards – 1895 cards were in Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodian, and Spanish
- Distributed 4028 green approach cards - 2035 cards were in Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodian, Spanish, and Somali
- Distributed 4900 HHW disposal flyers – 1350 flyers were in Spanish, Russian, Somali, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese, and Korean

VII. Evaluation of Project Year 2006

The evaluation component consisted of the group dialogues (refer to pg 6), PJ Redmond's (a former intern) degree project on EJNA's partnerships, stakeholder interviews with the CBOs and agency partners, CBO's roses and thorns questionnaire on project operation and procedures, and a follow-up to the concerns identified from 2002-05 surveys.

CBO Interviews and Roses & Thorns Summary

There were common themes identified in the CBO interviews that implicate broadening EJNA's current project structure to work on "non-working" relationships, flexibility in partnerships, and building CBO staff capacity to conduct EJNA work.

Common Themes

1. Need more capacity
 - Training on American operation and procedures methodology
 - In-depth training on topics (ie. HHW, recycling, food & seafood safety)
 - Development on outreach, facilitation, and presentation skills
 - Resource assistance – more staff, time, and tools
2. Enhance outreach and education efforts
 - Need more variety of outreach and education tools
 - More translated literature and non-literate educational tools
 - Assistance to develop an outreach strategy conducive to their community
 - More guidance and being strategic with outreach efforts
3. More structure and guidance
 - Better sense of the work plan (ie. lay out a strategy with timeline and due dates)
 - Clear expectations of the tasks assigned in the work plan
 - Be more structured but more flexibility on the work plan (ie. take into consideration CBO capacity and amount of workload)
 - Flexibility in presenting topics that is currently relevant to their community
4. Streamlining EJNA's paperwork requirements
 - Simplify billing forms
 - More training on how to fill out reporting forms
 - Redundant forms or reporting of information
 - Sometimes forms are not applicable to the event of fieldtrip
5. Identification of potential projects to assist with above common themes
 - Train-the-Trainer
 - Youth Leadership Program
 - Management Academy
 - Research

Agency Partners and Interviews Summary

There is strong interest from the agency partners in being more involved with EJNA's strategic planning, organization, and action. The SPU Team will work with the agency partners to develop the organizational structure to achieve this level of partnership. Summary of agency interviews:

(Code: The 4/5 is number of partners agreeing)

Common Themes

1. Participate in EJNA project planning 4/5
 - Form an EJNA Agency Partners Committee
 - Hold monthly meetings focusing on EJNA planning and identify new opportunities / challenges
2. Organizational strategy 4/5
 - Clarify roles in EJNA project – planning advisors, task assignments, resource
 - Each participant knows the overall goals and action plan
 - Review, evaluate, and provide recommendations
3. More collaboration among agencies, CBOs, and EJNA team 4/5
 - More in sync organizational strategy, ie. who is involved and doing what?
 - Cooperation on grants, ie. Fresh Ideas
 - Meeting community needs and meeting individual agency needs
 - Research on how to outreach and increase accessibility to communities
4. Meeting community needs vs. research on best approach to outreaching and educating 2/5
 - EJNA – hazardous waste and utilities topics
 - ALAW – indoor air
 - UW – kid's health
 - IDHA – public safety
 - KCPH – public health in general
 - SCL – electricity conservation
5. Research and expansion 5/5
 - Research new outreach methods and approaches
 - Research and identify new partners
6. Building CBO capacity and leadership 3/5
 - Train-the-Trainer
 - Youth Leadership Program
 - Management Academy
 - Broadening ways of partnering with CBOs

Surveys 2002-05 Summary and Follow-up Response

The surveys and focus group information produced data that had some reliability and validity challenges. These challenges include sample sizes, narrow community representations, fair amount of "other" or left blank responses, and variability administering the surveys. The following table attempts to capture most concerns from 2002-05 and how EJNA has responded.

Community Concerns	Issue Description	Response
Filipino 2002-03		
Public Safety	crime, gangs	crime forum (2004), SPD did a presentation on crime prevention
Indoor Air Quality	Respiratory problems and skin reactions related to household chemicals	↑ outreach & education, translated materials, green cleaning kit incentive
Water Quality	Concern about drinking water, lack of storm drains (open ditches) sidewalks and water & electric bill high	↑ outreach & education on water quality, water conservation, energy conservation & LIRA
East African 2002-03		
Indoor Air Quality	kitchen ventilation, mold, asthma, children's health	indoor air and HHW presentation, plus tour of Transfer Station also done
Outreach & Education	literacy challenges, Eritrean representation	↑ translated materials in Somali, Oromo, & Amharic, field trip & present
Samoa 2002-03		
Public Safety	gangs, street litter, homeless camps, adequate sidewalks	Nothing through EJNA
Indoor Air Quality	household chemicals, 2 nd hand smoke	Outreach & Education, Transfer station tour
Water Quality	tap water quality	↑ outreach & education, water quality lab & Watershed field trips
Khmer 2004-05		
Public safety	gangs, homeless, drugs/alcoholics, litter, pollution	Nothing through EJNA
Indoor Air Quality	household chemicals, smoking	↑ outreach & education, translated materials, green cleaning kit incentives, field trip to transfer station
Water Quality	drinking water quality	↑ outreach & education, water quality lab & water shed field trips
Latino 2004-05		
Public Safety	crime, distrust of Seattle Police and Mayor's designation of community leaders (South Park area), apartment access to curbside recycling	
Outreach & Education	recycling literature in Spanish, recycling workshops for Spanish speakers	↑ translated materials, ↑ outreach & education
IDHA 2004-05		
Public Safety	Crime, Litter	↑ supported CIDBIA & CAP to do spring clean up, did presentations to businesses and residents on recycling. IDHA held 1 st night market in 2006. Outreach at Summer Events

VIII. Project Direction 2007

For 2007, SPU EJNA decided to be more research-oriented, test pilot new project ideas, and gather more information and develop the partnerships to set up new projects for 2008. EJNA will be involving the current CBOs in different delivery agreements that work within their organizational capacity. EJNA will prepare the CBOs in more intensive training on a limited number of SPU-related topics and training on conducting outreach and completing forms and invoices, which will be simplified. EJNA is preparing a neighborhood outreach approach in which SPU may contract with interested CBOs to do outreach in a specific neighborhood – SPU is looking to partner with King County Housing Authority (KCHA). The next page is a summary of the projects that EJNA will be researching, testing, implementing for 2007.

2007 EJNA Project Planning

Research	Description - Educate CBOs on American operation & procedures methodology - Educate CBOs on business management skills - Train CBOs on completing documentation and invoices Purpose - Assist CBOs in increasing skills - Improve outreach to better meet community needs	Management Academy
	Description - Evaluate outreach and education methods - Evaluate effectiveness of different projects implemented - Evaluate partnerships - Assess that community needs are being met within SPU scope followed-up Purpose - Give guidance on program direction - Clarify roles and responsibilities - Ensure partnerships are engaging and effective - Documentation for funders and other program supporters	Program Evaluation
	Train-the-Trainer	
Neighborhood Focus	Description - Focus directed outreach in a specific neighborhood - CBOs work together on collaborative outreach Purpose - Assist CBOs with resource needs - Better meet community needs	Neighborhood-Directed Outreach
	Description - Reduce project to summer months only Purpose - Assist CBOs with resource needs	Summer Program
	Neighborhood Focus	